

education in securing federal legislation shaped to meet its needs due to the tireless efforts of Father Collins.

Father Collins also was well-regarded in the Georgetown University community for his deep respect for all religions. He used to say that all major religions had "a beauty and a truth." He never wanted religion to be a source of conflict but as a means of bringing people together. He has left behind a remarkable legacy, and without that legacy, Georgetown University would not have had the infrastructure needed to make it into one of the Nation's most prestigious centers of higher education.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the legacy of Father Thomas Byron Collins at Georgetown University.

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my concerns about the Flood Insurance Reform Modernization Act that the House passed today.

I support the goals of this legislation, which are to provide the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) with the resources it needs to pay its claims to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and to reform the NFIP to place it on sustainable long-term footing, but I believe that goal cannot be done at the expense of communities and homeowners who should not be in the flood maps. Several provisions of the bill will have such a negative impact on the Western New York communities that I represent, that I am unable to lend my support to the bill.

I would have welcomed the opportunity to vote solely on the provision to increase the funding that the Federal Emergency Management Agency can borrow in order to ensure that Katrina victims receive the funds they are owed. Indeed, I have supported several efforts since Katrina to increase FEMA's borrowing authority for this purpose. I have also supported tremendous increases in community development funding for Katrina-impacted areas, and I fought hard against the Administration's ill-conceived proposal to deny workers in the reconstruction effort the benefit of federal wage protection law.

Yet Mr. Chairman for all that was right in this bill, it fails to address some of the most pressing and problematic aspects of the NFIP, such as the extent to which some areas served by the program which seldom flood and seldom receive benefits must subsidize other areas which more frequently flood and more frequently receive benefits. Additionally, I am concerned that this does nothing to cushion the blow of mandatory flood insurance premiums to low income senior citizens or other, similarly situated persons. Additionally, when floods very often hit areas which had not been designated as having significant flood hazards, and while areas which have the 100-year flood designation have never been inundated, I have serious concerns about the accuracy of current flood mapping processes and procedures. While this bill would increase funding to

increase the quantity of flood mapping, it would not sufficiently improve the science to increase the quality of flood mapping.

Specific to the Buffalo-area communities in my district, I am strongly opposed to the provision directing the Comptroller General to study a mandatory purchase requirement for the natural 100-year floodplain. In the City of Buffalo, in the neighborhoods of South Buffalo and Kaisertown, an area has been designated as a 100-year floodplain by FEMA. This area is now protected by a number of man-made improvements designed expressly to protect against 100-year floods, so I am working toward the goal of having FEMA remove the 100-year floodplain designation from these areas, and with it, the concomitant burden of mandatory flood insurance premiums. In fact, in 1972 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said "the area would be protected from a flood stage having a recurrence interval of 100 years," yet this bill would not only keep the area under 100-year designation, but would also allow the cost to no-risk homeowners to rise. For me to vote to advance legislation including the area in the 100-year floodplain designation would be inconsistent with my efforts to have the designation removed in light of the flood prevention work that has been done there.

I am further concerned with provisions in this bill which would raise the maximum amount of coverage. This provision would cause insured homeowners in low-cost housing markets, such as Buffalo, to subsidize homeowners in high-cost housing markets. This provision is regressive and contrary to the interests of my constituency.

Mr. Chairman I agree that the NFIP needs to be reformed so that those truly at risk bear the cost of flood insurance. However, by including communities that are at no or little risk of flooding, the bill has the unintended consequence of forcing struggling communities, like the one I represent, to subsidize the cost of flood insurance across the country. That is not a just outcome, and it is one I will continue to oppose until NFIP flood maps represent what really goes on in a community and until low risk communities are not forced to subsidize high risk communities.

RECOGNIZING STEVEN GLASBRENNER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steven Glasbrenner a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 98, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Steven has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Steven has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Steven Glasbrenner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF DENICE DEE
DENTON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and my colleagues, Representatives MICHAEL HONDA and ANNA ESHOO, I rise today to note, sadly, the tragic passing of Denice Dee Denton, Chancellor of the University of California, Santa Cruz, UCSC. We have lost a colleague of immeasurable creativity and intellect. Our hearts go out to her family and loved ones in this incomprehensible time. In her memory, we stand today to pay homage to her commitment and sacrifice and pledge to further her legacy of equity, diversity and academic excellence.

Chancellor Denton dedicated her professional and personal energy to increasing the presence of women and minorities in typically male-dominated academic fields. While pursuing four advanced degrees from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, including a Ph.D., she often encountered and fought against prevailing attitudes that were quietly or openly hostile to women in science. Remarkably, her academic career was just beginning to blossom. She held academic appointments at the University of Massachusetts, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she worked from 1987, leaving as professor in the Departments of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Chemistry. Beginning in 1996, Chancellor Denton was appointed Dean of the College of Engineering and Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Washington, the first woman to hold the position at a National Research Council-designated Research One university.

On December 14, 2004, Denice Denton was appointed by the University of California Regents as the ninth Chancellor of UCSC. While Chancellor, Denice incorporated the philosophy of achieving excellence through diversity in her agenda. She championed causes on an international level to engage the academic community in a dialogue pursuing equity and advancement in science, math and engineering. Also, as the university's first openly gay Chancellor, Denice embraced her identity and empowered young people and professionals across many disciplines to do the same. Mr. Speaker, it is with great regret that we speak in memory of a life so full of promise and future achievement. But we do so secure in the knowledge of a life already lived so full of accomplishment. Denice Denton was just 46 years old at the time of her death. But in that short time she paved the way for so many to follow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to the memorial service for PFC. Kristian Menchaca in my